NEWS UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2007

WORK SAFE
WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
worksafebc.com

Soon, managing claims will be easier

WorkSafeBC will be launching Claims Management Solutions (CMS) in March 2008. This new state-of-the-art system is designed to improve service to our customers, and reduce claims and administrative costs.

In the future, if your employee has reported an injury online or by phone, we'll notify you of the injury and give you online access to the incident details. In these cases, you won't be required to submit a separate injury report – instead, you'll simply log on to **WorkSafeBC.com** to review your employee's report, make your revisions to it, and submit it back to us. Fast, easy, and convenient.

Over the coming months, we'll provide more information about CMS and the changes you can expect.

Regulations changed for young workers

Young workers, aged 15 to 24, and workers new to their jobs are better protected, thanks to amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

Effective July 27, employers must provide young or new workers with job-specific orientation and training before they begin work. Employers are also now required to document training and make the documentation available to WorkSafeBC upon request.

The amendments were prompted by the unacceptably high number of injuries faced by new and young workers.

For details and assistance with implementing the new regulation, visit **www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Resources-Employers.asp**.

Reducing your premiums

The announcement of lower preliminary rates in 2008 may have prompted you to contemplate how you can save money on premiums in future years. The best way to reduce your insurance costs is to improve your experience rating by:

- Developing a workplace safety program
- Making first aid a priority
- Helping injured workers return to work as soon and as safely as possible

With experience rating, your firm's premiums will be reduced or increased, depending on how your claims costs compare to those of your peers.

If your industry has a safety association, you may also be able to participate in the Partners Program and qualify for additional rebates on your premiums.

For more information, visit **www.worksafebc.com/insurance/premiums/experience_rating/default.asp** or **www.worksafebc.com/news_room/campaigns/partners_program/default.asp**.

TIME SAVER

Submit injury reports online

Workplace injuries can be extremely stressful. That's why we're making the process of reporting an injury as simple as possible by offering online service options. Here are a few of the advantages:

- There are no delays – we receive your Employer's Report of Injury (Form 7) immediately
- The online application streamlines questions about the injury based on your previous answers
- Online help and wizards guide you through the reporting process
- You can save and update your report anytime, anywhere
- Once you've submitted your report, you can follow the status of the claim online
- Error-checking tools help ensure your information is accurate

To get started, go to **WorkSafeBC.com** and select "Report an injury or illness."

Lower rates projected again

Most employers will pay lower rates for their workers' compensation insurance next year. The projected 2008 average base rate will drop by 7.6 percent to $1.56 per $100 of assessable payroll, compared to $1.69 in 2007. Eighty-four percent of industries will enjoy lower or the same rates next year. This will be the fourth consecutive year of declines and the lowest rate for B.C. employers in over 30 years.

Rates are subject to approval by the WorkSafeBC Board of Directors in the fall.

To find out more about the proposed rates in your industry, visit **www.worksafebc.com/insurance/premiums/2008_prelim_rates/default.asp**.

In the September/October issue of WorkSafe Magazine

Whether you're a worker or an employer, you need to know how to prevent back strain in the workplace – and how to speed recovery with an early return to work.

To read this story and about other helpful workplace tools, and to find out how to subscribe, visit **WorkSafeMagazine.com**.

Did You Know?

In 2006, 173,014 new injuries were reported to WorkSafeBC.

Maximum wage rate to increase

The maximum wage rate and the maximum coverage for Personal Optional Protection (POP) insurance are increasing, effective January 1, 2008. The maximum wage rate – the maximum earnings insurable per worker or active shareholder for the year – will increase to $66,500 per worker in 2008, up from $64,400 in 2007, while the maximum allowable POP coverage will increase next year to $5,541 per month from $5,367.

Calendar of events

Asthma in the Workplace Education Day Conference,
October 14, 2007

Banff Park Lodge Resort Hotel and Conference Centre, Banff, Alta.
www.oemac.org/oemac/en/index.html

Workplace Electrical Safety Conference
October 17 & 18, 2007

Calgary Telus Convention Centre, Calgary, Alta.
www.csa.ca/news/Workplace_Electrical_0507.pdf

International Commission on Occupational Health Conference on Health Care Worker Health
October 26 - 28, 2007

Sheraton Wall Centre, Vancouver, B.C.
www.acoem.org/icoh.aspx

Manufacturing Safety Conference
November 20 & 21, 2007

Pacific Inn, Surrey, B.C.
email: Pauline.Probyn@worksafebc.com

8th Annual Physician Education Conference,
December 8, 2007

Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle, Vancouver, B.C.
www.worksafebc.com/news_room/conferences

Popular contacts

- Claims Call Centre 604 231-8888, toll-free 1 888 967-5377
- Employer Service Centre 604 244-6181
  toll-free 1 888 922-2768
- Prevention Information Line 604 276-3100
  toll-free 1 888 621-7233
- Human Resources 604 276-3009, toll-free 1 888 757-5552
- Report fraud 1 877 523-3315

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This newsletter is also available electronically on the WorkSafeBC web site at **http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/newsletters/news_update/**

Communications Services
WorkSafeBC
PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

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